(ii) The average cost of maintenance of a rural telephone will depend upon terrain and its location may range from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20000/- per annum.

(iii) The public telephones in Panchayat villages are being provided with STD facility progressively wherever feasible. Such telephones are likely to become financially viable with increased usage by the villagers by the end of 8th Plan period.

Malfunctioning of Telephones in Hubli

*178. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of Cross-Bar and overaged Strowger Exchanges, the telephones in Hubli are malfunctioning; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to replace these equipments with Automatic Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a). However 1500 lines of strowger exchange which have completed life are being replaced by electronic exchange by March, 1994.

दूरदर्शन धारावाहिकों को स्वीकृति

*179. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या धारावाहिक पुनरीक्षा समिति की बैठक में अस्वीकृत किए गए दूरदर्शन धारावाहिक उक्त समिति को पुन: प्रस्तुत करके स्वीकृत कराए जा सकते हैं : –

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) ऐसे धारावाहिकों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हें गत एक वर्ष के दौरान पहली बार अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया लेकिन बाद में इन्हें मंजूरी दे दी गई ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) :

(क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। उक्त स्कीम में उन प्रस्तावों को पुन: समीक्षा का प्रावधान नहीं है जिन्हें नामंजूर कर दिया गया है।

(ग) इस प्रकार का कोई मामला नहीं हुआ है।

Problems of Employees in Ancillary Telecommunication Units

@ 1367. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand employees in small and medium indigenous ancillary telecommunication units are on the verge of losing their jobs as they were laid off consequent to the financial burden imposed on these units;

(b) whether this financial crunch is the result of the placing of order by-DOT direct with foreign suppliers in lieu of these indigenous units for the last six months; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that workers of such indigenous units do not lose their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b).

Vacation of Residential Premises Occupied by MTNL in Bombay

1368. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decisions to vacate some residential premises being occupied by the

---

@ Previously unstarred Question 352, Transferred from 6th December, 1993.